

rights are the birthright of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian gulags are full of men and women, like Mr. Pupo Sierra, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Pupo Sierra is languishing in the grotesque squalor of the gulag because he desires freedom for all Cubans. My Colleagues, read his message often. We must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ricardo Pupo Sierra and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROY A.
HASTICK, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr., a distinguished member of the Brooklyn business and civic communities. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Dr. Roy A. Hastick has served as President/CEO/Founder of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) for almost 20 years. Under his leadership, CACCI has promoted economic development on behalf of Caribbean American, African American, women and other minority small business owners and has become an internationally recognized business organization with a membership of over 1,700 in the United States and the Caribbean. Prior to starting CACCI, Dr. Hastick published the West Indian Tribune, a tabloid newspaper which served as a launching pad for the development of the Chamber, and which became the voice for the Caribbean American Community, and a business networking vehicle.

A tireless advocate for economic and community empowerment, Dr. Hastick helped to form several immigrant organizations and served for over 16 years in various capacities including 1st Vice Chairman of his local Community Board in Crown Heights Brooklyn. He currently serves on several small business advisory boards including: the New York State Governor's and New York City Mayor's Small Business Advisory Boards which advocates on behalf of minority and women owned business; JP Morgan Chase Bank, and the board of directors of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, New York Congregational Community Services, SUNY Jobs for Youth, and American Red Cross of Brooklyn. For six years, he has served as a delegate to the United Nations.

Dr. Hastick has been an ardent supporter of Two-Way trade between the United States and the Caribbean region. As an elected delegate to the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business, he campaigned to get Two-Way trade with the region into the final recommendations submitted to the United States Congress. Under his leadership, CACCI has undertaken several extraordinary and challenging initiatives including: conducting over 600 business seminars, providing weekly business clinics for start-ups and emerging busi-

nesses to access financing, contracting and procurement opportunities; promoting trade and investment opportunities between the Caribbean and the United States, and undertaking energetic and rapid responses to hurricane disasters in the Caribbean region. For the past 3 years, CACCI has managed, Flatbush Caton Merchants Mart, a city-owned Brooklyn-based micro enterprise incubator which houses 61 vendors and occupies 9,000 sq. ft. of space. CACCI's Educational Foundation supports micro-entrepreneurship, hurricane disaster relief efforts and provides scholarships for disadvantaged young people.

Dr. Hastick has led several trade missions to the Caribbean region, hosted numerous Caribbean Head of State on their visits to the United States and made presentations at Caribbean Heads of Government meetings. Under his leadership, the development of the first ever Caribbean Trade Center, a one stop capital shop for two-way trade that will occupy 20,000 sq. ft. in a major commercial corridor in Central Brooklyn, is in its 2nd phase of development and has received financial support and commitments from the New York State Governor, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York City Council, New York City Mayor, and has been endorsed by local, national and international business entities, including CARICOM. Expected completion date is Fall 2006.

Dr. Hastick has partnered with numerous economic development entities, academic and medical institutions, national and local community groups including the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) United States Department of Commerce MBDA, NYS Empire Development Corporation, NYC Small Business Services (NYC SBS), SCORE, City University of New York (CUNY), SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Caribbean Women's Health Association, African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, and the Korean American Small Business Service Center.

He has received numerous awards including: the United States Department of Commerce and the New York State Small Business Advocate of the Year Awards; Korean American Small Business Service Center "Harmony and Unity Award"; Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award from the Shirley Chisholm Institute; Ron Brown Business Advocate Award; "Chamber of the Year Award" from the NYS Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; honored by President William Jefferson Clinton at "New York Day" in Washington, DC; "CEO of the Year 2000" from the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP, the New York State Hispanic Legislative Task Force 2002, and the New York State Black and Puerto Rican State Senators Award. Dr. Hastick was also honored with an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa by Medgar Evers College, CUNY at its 2001 Annual Convocation Ceremony.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Roy A. Hastick, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hastick's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic, dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
CLARENCE KEATON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in appreciation and admiration of Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton for his continued commitment, serving as Pastor and founder of the True Worship Church Worldwide Ministries, as a spiritual leader to his congregants, peers, friends, family, and the entire community of Brooklyn, New York.

Ordained as a minister in 1983, Reverend Dr. Keaton is affectionately referred to as P.O.P. [Pastor of Pastors] by his faithful congregants because of the guidance and genuine support he offers to them through the words of God. He has specifically sought out young members, in need of a spiritual teacher, and has inspired them to fully embrace God's love while following his direction to lead an honest, devout life. In the eyes of his peers, he is known as the "preachers teacher," passionately devoted to spreading the biblical truths of the gospel. This man of god is a beacon of light for his congregation, a buttress of strength, and a source of wisdom for anyone so blessed to be in his presence and hear his voice.

Pastor Keaton was dignified with an honorary doctorate of divinity degree in 1992 by the acclaimed Jesus Saves Bible Institute. His ministry work is highlighted by his magnetic personality and encouraging speech. Pastor Keaton's inspirational teachings are broadcasted on the radio, to proclaim the guiding words of God to a greater audience. This led to his numerous commendations and awards of excellence in radio, because he is able to reach out to thousands of souls of men and women through WWRL radio station. In addition to his outstanding work in ministry, he has been honored for his extraordinary community work, specifically with the senior citizens of the Brownsville Recreation Center.

It gives me great pleasure to honor the many achievements of Reverend Dr. Clarence Keaton and offer my utmost respect for the honest work that he does out of the kindness of his heart. We pray for God's continued grace on his ministry.

SIKH, CATHOLIC LEADERS MEET

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently a group of Sikh leaders met in New York with Catholic leaders in an all-day event hosted by an Interfaith organization. Sikh leaders in attendance included Dr. Manohar Singh, Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, and Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu. Monsignor Felix Machado, an official at the Vatican, also attended the meeting.

It is good to see this kind of pluralistic cooperation and I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing it to my attention.

Contrast this to the situation in India, where Sikhs, Christian, Muslims, and other minorities

are subject to brutal and ongoing repression from the government. Perhaps "the world's largest democracy" could learn a thing or two from the meeting in New York.

We should stop our aid to India and we should demand self-determination for all the people of South Asia so that they can live in peace, freedom, harmony, and prosperity, as they do here in America and other Western democracies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the article from India-West into the RECORD.

[From India-West, June 2, 2006]

SIKH, CATHOLIC LEADERS MEET IN NEW YORK
(By a Staff Reporter)

Representatives of the World Sikh Council-America Region met with Catholic leaders in New York in an all-day event hosted by the Religions for Peace-USA. The Sikh group has said.

Dr. Manohar Singh, the group's chairperson, and Dr. Tarunjit Singh, chair of the group's Interfaith Committee, led the Sikhs.

The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops' delegation was headed by Rev. James Massa, executive director of its Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs.

Monsignor Felix Machado, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue at the Vatican in Rome, was a special guest and adviser.

Two observers of Religions for Peace attended the May 20 meeting.

"The universal message of Sikhism respects pluralism and we welcome our Catholic friends with open arms," Manohar Singh said. "This dialogue is an opportunity for our communities to begin a conversation at the highest level on how we may be able to work with each other in trust and friendship to make this world a more peaceful and just place for all."

Machado responded by saying the Catholic Church appreciates this dialogue with the Sikh community. "Sikhs respect us, not suspect us," he said.

Sikh and Catholic leaders expressed shared concerns over the challenges faced by immigrant communities in the U.S., the curtailment of religious freedom and human rights in South Asia, and the challenges of secularism to both religious communities.

The participants said they would meet again this year with a focus on "Divinity, Humanity and Creation." They also pledged to continue to meet at least once a year through a working committee.

After the meeting, the Catholic and Sikh participants visited the Mata Sahib Kaur Gurdwara Sahib in Glen Cove, N.Y., joined the evening service and partook of langar meal.

A TRIBUTE TO STANLEY HENRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Stanley Henry, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us today to honor a man who has exhibited the will to succeed, and the insatiable drive to bring his goals into fruition.

Stanley Henry is a man that went from working menial night jobs and attending high

school during the day, to owning his own hardware distribution store and contracting firm and being one of the most respected men in Brooklyn.

Mr. Henry was born in British Guyana, South America in 1945. While he attended the Mackenzie Government and Technical High School during the day, he worked nights, a feat especially commendable for a teenager. After graduating in 1965, Mr. Henry worked as a construction apprentice with the Canadian Bauxite Company. In 1967, he migrated to Brooklyn. Not needing much time to adapt to a new culture, Mr. Henry graduated from The Delhanty Institute of Structural Design within 2 years. He then secured a position with Ewell W. Finley Engineer PC and for the next 10 years, Mr. Henry stayed with this company. While still employed with the company, Mr. Henry continued his education. He graduated from both the Institute of Design Construction adding to his structural engineering experience and from NYC Technical College to enhance his administrative skills.

Mr. Henry later moved on to establish Annie Henry General Hardware, his own building materials supply business named after his beloved mother. The name was later changed to Henry Wholesale & Resale Distributors, LLC. He is also the proud owner of Henry Builders Inc., a contracting firm that not only knows the people that it serves, but the people it serves knows and loves him. Mr. Henry's businesses have been a fixture on Broadway for over 35 years and he is affectionately known as the "Mayor of Broadway" and "The Master Builder."

Mr. Henry embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that is essential to any small business.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Stanley Henry as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our community.

Mr. Speaker, Stanley Henry's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication and today we should recognize this man and pay homage to a life truly worth celebrating.

TRIBUTE TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER OF COLORADO

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the exceptional leadership and invaluable contributions of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Colorado, "The Center," on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. It is fitting that we recognize The Center for its record of extraordinary service in providing support and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, GLBT, communities in the 1st Congressional District and throughout Colorado.

The Center has been on the front lines of progress since its inception and has proven to be a powerful force in transforming the land-

scape of our State. Founded in Denver in 1976, The Center is a statewide, nonprofit community center and is one of the oldest organizations serving GLBT communities in the country. It is a powerful advocate on a broad range of issues that affect GLBT people in our State and is a catalyst for community organizing and providing needed support services.

Health and wellness is a key focus of The Center. Its Healthy Living Program offers extensive health care services including free HIV testing in conjunction with Denver Health, low-cost hepatitis vaccinations, free mammograms for uninsured women, health care provider referrals and access to mental health services. It also devotes sizable effort to community health education as well as disease prevention. The Lesbian Cancer Support Service strives to increase early detection and a higher rate of cancer survival in lesbian and bisexual women. The Center also maintains Rainbow Alley, a drop-in center designed for GLBT youth that provides health care services, counseling and referral. Youth have access to a medical clinic, computer lab, kitchen and the Terry Mangan Library, all of which are drug, alcohol, tobacco and hate free.

The Center's advocacy and legal initiatives have done much to advance the cause of civil liberty and provide necessary assistance to those who experience discrimination, harassment and unequal treatment. The Legal Initiatives Project, CLIP, was founded in 1992 to challenge a discriminatory amendment to the Colorado Constitution. Amendment II would have precluded any action by the State or local governments designed to protect GLBT people. Amendment II passed by a slim margin, but due to CLIP's leadership, a lawsuit was filed and injunctive relief was granted to prevent the measure from taking effect. The decision was appealed to the United States Supreme Court and a national coalition of civil rights groups joined CLIP to uphold the lower court ruling. In a historic decision—*Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)—the Supreme Court held that Amendment II was unconstitutional under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In 2000, CLIP merged with The Center and became its legal services program. It accomplishes its mission through the CLIP Legal Hotline, civil rights litigation and mediation, media work and public education. CLIP focuses on cases and issues that move the civil rights agenda forward serve the most oppressed and disadvantaged in the GLBT communities.

We are indeed fortunate to have The Center in our community. It is an invaluable resource and I am deeply appreciative of the good work The Center does in addressing systemic inequalities and providing continuity and stability in the efforts to secure greater equality, justice and participation in our democracy. The Center has helped provide a place at the table for GLBT people. It has provided needed health and community services. In summary, The Center's leadership and engagement has made a real difference in peoples lives and thereby in the communities it serves.

Please join me in commending the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Colorado. It is the strong leadership and meaningful service it provides on a daily basis that continually enhances our lives and builds a better future for all of our people.